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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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4-7-1966

From: Mark Hicks

Mark Hicks

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# Central Church of Christ

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April 7, 1966

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
P. O. Box 440  
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear John Allen:

I have tried to write this letter to you several times and just haven't known how to do it. There has been something on my mind for the last few days that I must say to you. I understand that you, along with several others, have been approached about going to Viet Nam, for the purpose of surveying the work and making certain proposals relative to it and the work of the church there.

The thing that has gone through my mind is the fact that I seriously doubt the good that you, and several of the others I have heard mentioned, could do in surveying the needs over there. In the first place, I haven't heard of a one that has really and truly been associated with the kind of social problems that seem to prevail there to know how to evaluate them if you saw them. I do not for a moment doubt your faith and devotion to doing what is right, nor do I generally doubt your judgment. I do feel that some people (Christian workers) who are qualified with backgrounds in the field of social work would be best suited for the job though.

I am afraid of our tendency to depend on several "big-name" preachers ( and you know there is no offence intended) as being qualified in almost every field imaginable to evaluate and make recommendations to the "brotherhood." Do you not feel that for several of the persons mentioned to go on this trip that it would be a total waste of some money that some brethren somewhere will have to pay eventually? There are brethren begging to go into the fields who need that money to get there! They may not be the "biggest" men we have, but they are none-the-less devoted---and God above knows we need everyone of them!

Please accept this in the manner I have intended it! No one loves you any more than I do. You are without a doubt the closest person, outside my own family, to me on this earth. But, for your sake and that of the Lord, please think this over. May God continue to bless you.

Your Christian brother,

*Mark*

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